In accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of Public Financial Institution (Obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, further details cannot be divulged.

Non-Availability of Anti-Venom Medicines in Rural Areas

1892. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have con ducted any study as to the availability of anti-venom medicines in rural areas;

(b) if so, what are the findings of such study;

(c) whether it is a fact that antidotes for snake bites are just not available in rural areas;

(d) how does Government propose to ensure availability of anti-venom medicines in rural areas; and

(e) steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) No such study has been conducted.

(c) to (e) Snake bite treatment is available in the Primary Health Centres and Government Hospitals and the required antidotes are procured by the State Health Department as per local requirements from the vaccine producing institutes viz., Central Research Institute, Kasauli; Haffkine Bio-Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd., Bombay and Kirtg Institute of Preventive Medicine, Chennai.

Revamping excise duty structure

1893. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to revamp the country's excise duty structure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have found any bottlenecks in the existing excise duty structure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which the latest excise duty structure would be effective?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Reform of tax structure is a continuous and on-going process. The present central excise duty structure is still characterised by multiplicity of tax rates, existence of a number of exemptions which are based on different criteria and multiple nature of commodity taxes collected as excise duty under different enactments. A number of measures have been taken in the recent past to rationalise and simplify the excise duty structure and make it more transparent. These include reduction in dispersal of rates, replacement of specific rates of duty with ad valorem rates on a number of commodities, with-drwal of a large number of end-use based exemptions, extension of Modvat scheme to pertroleum products, capital goods and processed textile fabrics and simplification of procedures. This has brought more transparency in excise duty structure and helped in reducing classification disputes.

Ajanta, Ellora and Elephanta Caves

1894. MISS SAROJ KHAFARDE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ajanta, Ellora and Elephanta caves in Maharashtra are in very bad shape despite charging of entry fee from the tourists;

(b) whether it is also a fact that insanitation and lack of other essential facilities discourage the tourists to frequently visit these places and recommend other to visit them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what remedial action Government propose to take to improve the sanitation and other problems at these caves?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (d) The caves at Ajanta, Ellora and Elephanta are included in the world Heritage list and are maintained as per archaeological principles by the Archaeological Survey of India.

Day to day cleaning, sweeping of the caves is carried out regularly. New toilet blocks have been constructed at Ajanta Caves and Ellora Caves, water cooler have been provided at Ajanta caves and Ellora caves for providing drinking water to visitors. There is acute shortage of water at Elephanta Caves. Rain water collected during' rainy seanson is stored in a rock cut cistern and the same is supplied to tourist throughout the year after properly treating it. The toilet block at Elephanta caves is damaged due to land slide and is under repairs but toilet facilities are available at Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation centre adjacent to the monument. Conservation of these caves is carried out as per advise of experts in the field of conservation. The conservation of Ajanta and Ellora caves is included in the Ajan-ta-Ellora conservation and tourism Development project which is under implementation with loan funds obtained from O.E.C.F. Japan.

Representation Regarding the Problem Being Faced by The CGHS Units in Delhi

1895. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
SHRI NARESH YADAV:
SHRI RAJNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation regarding the problem being faced by the CGHS units of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy in Delhi from 1st January, 1995 till date;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to upgrade the standards of CGHS units of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy by providing paramedical staff in it; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (d) CGHS has been receiving representations from different Associations regarding upgradation of the existing units under Indian System of Medicine/Homoeopathy to dispensaries.

Due to constraints of reasources, CGHS are opening only units in place of dispensaries in respect of Homoeopathic and Indian Systems of Medicines.

Payment of Higher Price for Caribjet Wet Lease

1896. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take action against the officials responsible for paying higher price for Caribjet wet lease despite the fact that better aircrafts were available on wet lease at a lower price;